

LOVING GOD

Part four: David — Love is ... Listening to God's Word (Psalm 119)

"A wise girl kisses but doesn't love, listens but doesn't believe, and leaves before she is left." Marilyn Monroe

How sad is that!

In any relationship one of the greatest acts of love is to listen.

How do you feel when someone really listens to you?

How do you feel when you are not listened to?

What makes a good listener?

Are you a good listener?

How do you show your love to God by listening to his Word?



Exercise:

Read Psalm 119 aloud and then make a list of ...

- 1) David's attitude to listening to God's Word
- 2) The benefits of listening to God's Word
- 3) How does David get to know the character of God by listening?

The more one listens the more you become "tuned" into the voice of God. Voice recognition is essential to any relationship. We know the voices of those we love.

"His sheep follow him because they know his voice." John 10:4

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me." John 10:27

How well do you know the voice of God?

For your interest—Psalm 119 is an Acrostic Psalm

The Hebrew alphabet contains 22 letters. The stanzas of Psalm 119 are written with 8 verses for each of the 22 Hebrew consonants in alphabetical order. So, in the first stanza (verses 1-8) the first word of each verse begins with the first letter of the alphabet 'aleph'. In the second stanza (verses 9-16), each verse begins with a word beginning with the next letter of the alphabet 'beth'. And so on. Now can you guess how many stanzas there are in total?

Psalm 119 is not a "fair weather" Psalm. David knows what it is like to be in pain, to be under attack, to have his back against the wall, to experience despair and to know when he needs outside help. David is no stranger to suffering. This is the place that love kicks in. It's easy to love when all is going well but when the going gets tough the tough get loving. You can see and hear this in the psalm as David declares his love for God by his passion for God's Word. It is his love of listening to God's word that becomes his saving grace.

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" 11

"Your statutes are my delight; they are my counsellors" 24

"I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word" 25

"My soul is weary with sorrow strengthen me according to your word" 28

"My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life." 50

"If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction." 92

"Oh how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more insight than all my teachers for I meditate on your statutes." 97-99

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." 105

"The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple." 130

"Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me." 133

"Your promises have been thoroughly tested and your servant loves them." 140

"Trouble and distress have come upon me, but your commands are my delight." 143

"I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word." 147

"All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal." 160

"I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commands." 176

Don't leave it for a rainy day or when you have your back against the wall, cultivate a love for listening to God's voice today, it will be your saving grace.

**Love is . . . Listening for God's word
This is how we love God**

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